

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /121 W
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R 051500Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9661

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6940

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR: ISRAELI REACTIONS

1. IN SPITE OF UNSYG WALDHEIM'S GAFFES ON REFUSING TO COVER
HIS HEAD WHEN ENTERING ISRAELI MEMORIAL FOR VICTIMS OF
HOLOCAUST AND REFERRING TO JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL,
ISRAELI PUBLIC POSTURE AS PROJECTED THROUGH GOI COMMENTS AND
PRESS PLAY IS ONE OF PLEASURE WITH OUTCOME OF VISIT.
(ISRAELI DISPLEASURE OVER WALDHEIM'S FIRST GAFFE QUICKLY DIMINISHED
AS SOON AS HE MADE HIS SECOND FAUX PAS.) OFFICIAL SOURCES
ARE QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING THAT WALDHEIM'S VISIT WAS
A "SUCCESS." ISRAELI SATISFACTION, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES,
DID NOT DERIVE FROM VISIT'S POSSIBLE INFLUENCE ON MIDDLE EAST
STALEMATE, BUT FROM IMPRESSIONS WALDHEIM TOOK AWAY WITH
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HIM AFTER RECEIVING THOROUGH EXPLANATION FROM MRS MEIR AND

EBAN OF ISRAEL'S POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE WITH THE ARABS. ISRAELIS WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED BY FACT THAT WALDHEIM BROUGHT NO NEWS PLANS WITH HIM, OR AS FONMIN EBAN PUT IT AT PRESS CONF AUG 31, "HE IS NOT ENGAGED IN A STATE OF OPERATIVE MEDIATION."

2. SINCE WALDHEIM'S DEPARTURE FROM ISRAEL, PRESS HAS CARRIED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF HIS VISITS TO CAIRO AND AMMAN. PRESS HAS FOCUSED ON REPORTEDLY HARD LINE POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS AND WITHDRAWAL AS EXPRESSED BY EGYPTIANS TO WALDHEIM, ASSERTING THAT UNSYD LESS HOPEFUL FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE AFTER HIS VISIT TO CAIRO.

3. ON BALANCE, ISRAELI PUBLIC EXPECTED LITTLE OF CONCRETE VALUE TO COME FROM WALDHEIM'S TOUR OF MID EAST AND HAVE REACTED TO VISIT ALMOST CAUSALLY. FACT THAT WALDHEIM PUBLICLY EMPHASIZED PURELY EXPLORATORY NATURE OF HIS TOUR HAS MADE IT EASIER FOR GOI PUBLICLY TO DESCRIBE MISSION IN POSITIVE TERMS.
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